

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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November 24, 2020

Mr. Eric Averett  
Groundwater Banking Joint Powers Authority  
Post Office Box 20820  
Bakersfield, California 93390-0820

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

November 24, 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal  
Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project  
SCH# 2020049019  
Kern County

Dear Mr. Averett:

The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has reviewed the Notice of Completion and the October 2020 Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Kern Fan Groundwater Storage Project (Project). The documents describe the proposed construction and operation of water conveyance, recharge, and recovery facilities including 'basin berms approximately 3 to 6 feet in height above ground', associated piping including up to 22 feet of excavation, recovery wells, and appurtenant conveyance facilities. Insufficient information is provided in the Project description to make an accurate jurisdictional determination with regards to the described work, and it is unclear whether some or all the work will be subject to State jurisdiction for dam safety. Therefore, the applicant, Groundwater Banking Joint Powers Authority, needs to submit preliminary plans with cross-sections so that DSOD can make a jurisdictional determination.

As defined in Sections 6002 and 6003, Division 3, of the California Water Code, dams 25 feet or higher with a storage capacity of more than 15 acre-feet, and dams higher than 6 feet with a storage capacity of 50 acre-feet or more are subject to State jurisdiction. The dam height is the vertical distance measured from the maximum possible water storage level to the downstream toe of the barrier.

If the dam(s) is subject to State jurisdiction, a construction application, together with plans, specifications, and the appropriate filing fee must be filed with DSOD for this project. All dam safety related issues must be resolved prior to approval of the application, and the work must be performed under the direction of a Civil Engineer registered in California. Erik Malvick, our Design Engineering Branch Chief, is responsible for the application process and can be reached at (916) 565-7840.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact me at (916) 565-7827.

Sincerely,

*Rick Draeger*

Richard Draeger, Regional Engineer  
Southern Region  
Field Engineering Branch  
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse